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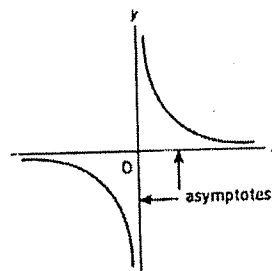
TAB

Bible
Calendar
Currency
Elements
Measurement

asunder / atlas

52

a·sun·der (ə-sūn'dər) *adv.* 1. Into separate parts, pieces, or groups. 2. Apart in position or direction. [*< OE on sundran.*] **as well as** *conj.* And in addition; *big as well as strong.* —*prep.* In addition to.
a·sy·lum (ə-sī'ləm) *n.* 1. An institution for the care of ill or needy people, esp. those with mental impairments. 2. A place of safety; refuge. 3. Protection granted by a government to a political refugee from another country. [*< Gk. asylos, inviolable.*] **a·sym·met·ri·cal** (ā'sī-mēt'rikəl) also **a·sym·met·ric** (-rik) *adj.* Not symmetrical. —*a·sym·met·ri·cal·ly* *adv.* —*a·sym·me·try* *n.*
a·symp·to·mat·ic (ā'simp-tə-māt'ik) *adj.* Neither causing nor exhibiting symptoms of disease. —*a·symp·to·mat·i·cal·ly* *adv.*
as·ymp·tote (ās'im-tōt', -imp-) *n.* A line approached by a curve in the limit as the curve approaches infinity. [*< Gk. asumptōtos, not intersecting.*] —*as·ymp·tot'ic* (-tōt'ik). *as·ymp·tot'ic* *adj.*



asymptote

Asymptotes of a hyperbola:
 $xy = 1$

at (āt; at when unstressed) *prep.* 1. In or near the position or area occupied by: *at the market; at the top of the page.* 2. To or toward the direction or goal of: *looked at them; worked at the task.* 3. In the state or condition of: *at peace.* 4. In the activity or field of: *good at math; at work.* 5. On, near, or by the time or age of: *at three o'clock.* 6. Because of: *rejoice at a victory.* [*< OE at.*]

at (āt) *n., pl. at.* See table at currency. [Thai.]

At The symbol for the element astatine.
at. *abbr.* Atomic.

at·a·vism (āt'ə-vīz'm) *n.* The reappearance of a characteristic in an organism after several generations of absence. [*< Lat. atavus, ancestor.*] —*at'·a·vis'tic* *adj.* —*at'·a·vis'ti·cal·ly* *adv.*

ate (āt) *v.* P.t. of eat.

-ate *suffix.* 1. a. Having or characterized by: *affectionate.* b. Resembling: *palmate.* 2. Rank; office: *pastorate.* 3. To act upon in a specified manner: *acidulate.* 4. Product of an action or process: *distillate.* [*< Lat. -ātus, p. part. suff.*]

-ate *suffix.* 1. A derivative of a specified chemical compound or element: *silicate.* 2. A salt or ester of a specified acid: *acetate.* [NLat. *-atum* < Lat. *-ātus, p. part. suff.*]

at·el·ler (āt'l-yā') *n.* A workshop or studio.

esp. for an artist. [*< OFr. atelier.*]

Ath·a·bas·ca (āth'ə-bās'kə). A river rising in the Rocky Mts. of SW Alberta, Canada, and flowing e. 1,231 km (765 mi) to Lake Athabasca on the Saskatchewan border.

Ath·a·bas·kan or **Ath·a·bas·can** (āth'ə-bās'kən) also **Ath·a·pas·can** (-pās'kən) *n.* 1. A group of related Native American languages including Navajo, Apache, and languages of NW Canada. 2. A member of an Athabaskan-speaking people.

a·the·ism (ā'thē-iz'm) *n.* Disbelief in or denial of the existence of God. [*< Gk. atheos, without a god.*] —*a'the·ist* *n.* —*a'the·is'tic* *adj.*

A·the·na (ə-thē'nə) also **A·the·ne** (-nē) *n.* Gk. Myth. The goddess of wisdom, the practical arts, and warfare.

ath·a·nae·um also **ath·e·ne·um** (āth'ə-nē'əm) *n.* 1. An institution for the promotion of learning. 2. A library. [*< Gk. Athēnaion, temple of Athena.*]

Ath·ens (āth'ənz). The cap. of Greece, in the E part near the Saronic Gulf; reached the height of its power and cultural achievements in the 5th cent. b.c. Pop. 885,700.

—**A·the·ni·an** (ə-thē'nē-ən) *adj.* & *n.*

ath·er·o·scler·osis (āth'ə-rō-skler'ə-sis) *n.* A form of arteriosclerosis in which plaque containing cholesterol and lipids is deposited on the inner walls of the arteries. [*< Lat. atherōma, kind of tumor.*]

a·thirst (ə-thūrst') *adj.* Strongly desirous; eager: *athirst for freedom.*

ath·lete (āth'lēt') *n.* One who participates esp. in competitive sports. [*< Gk. athlō, < athlein, compete.*]

ath·lete's foot (āth'lēts) *n.* A contagious fungal infection of the skin usu. affecting the feet, characterized by itching, blistering, cracking, and scaling.

ath·let·ic (āth-lēt'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or for athletes or athletics. 2. Physically strong. See *Syns* at muscular. —*ath·let'ic·al·ly* *adv.* —*ath·let'ic·ism* (-lēt'is-iz'm) *n.*

ath·let·ics (āth-lēt'iks) *n.* (takes sing. or v.) 1. Athletic activities. 2. A system of training and practice for such activities.

athletic supporter *n.* An elastic support for the male genitals, worn esp. during sports.

a·thwart (ə-thwɔrt') *adv.* From side to side; crosswise. —*prep.* 1. From one side to the other of; across. 2. Contrary to.

a·tilt (ə-tilt') *adv.* & *adj.* In a tilted position. —*tilt* *suffix.* 1. a. Action or process: *stratagilation.* b. The result of an action or process.

-ation *suffix.* 1. a. Action or process: *stratagilation.* b. The result of an action or process.

-ative *suffix.* Relating to or characterized by: *talkative.* [*< Lat. -ātivus < -ātus, -āth*]

At·lan·ta (āt-lān'tə). The cap. of GA, in the NW part. Pop. 394,017. —**At·lan'tan** *n.*

At·lan·tic City (āt-lān'tik). A coastal city in SE NJ. Pop. 37,986.

Atlantic Ocean. The second-largest ocean, divided into the North Atlantic and the South Atlantic and extending from the Arctic to the Antarctic in the S between N. America and Europe and Africa.

At·lan·tis (āt-lān'tis) *n.* A legendary island in the Atlantic Ocean W of Cuba.

at·las (āt'lās) *n.* A book or bound collection of maps. [After *Atlas*, legendary king of Africa.]